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SUBJECT: LATVIAN FM WILL ATTEND LONDON CONFERENCE ON
AFGHANISTAN, INCREASE CIV SUPPORT

REF: STATE 6355

[¶1.](#) (SBU) Latvian MFA Security Policy Director Kaspars Ozolins confirmed that Foreign Minister Maris Riekstins will attend the London Conference on Afghanistan, January 28, where he will formally announce an increase of two additional Latvian police officers (supplementing one already deployed) and the provision of a small civilian development contribution of 10,000 Latvian lats (about 20,000 USD). He said the funds will likely be used to provide training to criminal investigators or judges, following up on the Latvian construction of three courthouses in Faryab province. Ozolins appreciated receipt of reftel points, and said that Latvia would continue to strongly support the U.S. position on Afghanistan.

[¶2.](#) (SBU) Comment: In spite of Latvia's severe economic contraction (the loss of over 20% in GDP over the last two years), the government remains committed to sustain its existing contribution of 170 troops who serve without caveats both in Faryab and Jalalabad. Despite squabbles within the ruling coalition government over the budget and agreements with foreign lenders, the Foreign Ministry and Defense Ministry share a strong desire to demonstrate international responsibility and continued solidarity with the United States on Afghanistan.
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